4. DOD COMPATIBLE LAND USE AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

This chapter responds to Section 320's requirement to evaluate the need for safety and operational buffer areas in response to civilian community encroachment. DoD has a broad range of initiatives to combat encroachment that are addressed in this and prior year Sustainable Range Reports. Compatible land use is explored in this chapter to highlight the history and growth of these initiatives, to describe the positive successes that resulted from the 10 USC § 2684a partnering authority, and to emphasize the need to continue to pursue safety and operational buffer areas in order to sustain essential military training and testing missions.

4.1. DOD PHILOSOPHY ON COMPATIBLE LAND USE

Effective land management on and around military installations must satisfy many priorities, which includes meeting military training and testing mission requirements, addressing local community needs, and protecting and sustaining the environment. Years ago, most of the nation's military installations existed in rural areas far from urban centers. But a growing population and shifting land development patterns are increasingly consuming America's open spaces and closing in on military lands vital to testing and training. As these installations merge with growing metropolitan and suburban areas, satisfying these multiple priorities becomes more challenging. Land development can consume precious open space, affect the consumption and sustainability of the region's natural resources and impact the installation's operational capability. Land development adjacent to military installations can produce serious conflicts:

- Increased interference with air routes and communications through construction of cell towers, wind turbines, power lines, and other structures,
- Increased competition for data and communication frequencies ,
- Displacement of threatened and endangered species to the remaining open space, including military ranges,
- Increased need to alter training and testing due to residential neighbors' concerns about noise and safety,
- More rapid depletion of critical ground or surface water supplies, water treatment capacity, and other necessary resources,
- Increased air emissions in areas that may have finite air emission thresholds.

In recent years, the Department has expanded its attention to include areas outside the installation fence line that are impacted by military operations or that provide habitat to sensitive species found on the base. It has become increasingly clear that what happens to land, water, and air resources more broadly outside the fence line has significant impact on operations within the installation. The accelerating pace of development is exacerbating such impacts, and timely action is needed to protect the military's ability to test and train. To address these regional issues and sustain natural resources that serve both the military and the broader community, DoD is strongly pursuing open and productive dialogue with federal, state, inter-state, Indian tribal, and local officials; the public; private organizations; and foreign governments, as appropriate. Continued efforts in cooperation, collaboration in future planning, and partnerships are essential for managing the nation's valuable resources for the long-term.

DoD has a broad range of efforts underway to promote compatible land use around its military installations, and each contains the important elements of outreach, communication, and working in cooperation with the surrounding communities and governments. Some of these programs, such as the

Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) date back to the 1970's, and recently authorized programs that encourage conservation buffer partnerships are already proving successful. This chapter discusses several DoD-wide data collection and analysis tools being used across the Department to quantify encroachment impacts on operational capability, and then describes DoD programs and initiatives that promote compatible land use, highlighting selected success stories within these programs.

4.2. DoD Policy

In March 2005, the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued an updated directive, Directive 4715.1E, entitled, "Environmental, Safety, and Occupational Health." The directive reflects the Department's vision of sustainable resources needed for mission support, which includes issues of incompatible land use outside the fence line. These resources are called natural infrastructure, which refers to the air, land, water and frequency spectrum resources needed by DoD to perform its mission. This directive establishes a policy of evaluating current and emerging requirements in terms of resource capability to support mission, in addition to the existing measures of readiness, compliance, reduced injury and illness, and pollution prevention. Actions at both the headquarters and installation levels demonstrate the Department's commitment to advance environmental programs beyond compliance to the protection of natural infrastructure assets needed to support mission both for now and into the future.

DoD Directive 3200.15, Sustainment of Ranges and Operating Areas (OPAREAs) establishes policy and assigns responsibilities for the sustainment of DoD's operational ranges and OPAREAs. It encompasses all aspects of range sustainment initiatives including operational and mission requirements, encroachment concerns, data needs, planning and budgeting, range management plans, and stakeholder involvement. Many of these areas are addressed in this chapter in relation to compatible land use programs.

To manage the various Service programs that address civilian community encroachment, the Deputy Secretary of Defense formed an Overarching Integrated Product Team (OIPT) to address sustainability issues. The OIPT is supported by a Working Integrated Product Team (WIPT), under which a subgroup on land use was created. This subgroup provides a forum for the military services to coordinate various programs, share success stories and lessons learned, and work together on policy and legal issues of mutual interest. Issues that arise in this subgroup are coordinated through the WIPT and then, if needed, to senior DoD leadership.

4.3. Encroachment Analysis, Visualization, and Decision Tools

The Department is supporting the development of analytical models and tools aimed at quantifying encroachment, evaluating encroachment impacts at installations, and prioritizing incompatible land use issues across the country. These measures can be used to assess the severity of encroachment on training and to prioritize funding. In addition, as models are developed that link encroachment issues to training by combat unit or training exercise, scenarios can be created to anticipate constraints prior to restationing or realignment of troops.

4.3.1. Army Encroachment Condition Model (ECM)

The Army is developing an ECM to quantify environmental impacts on the training mission. The ECM is an objective, centralized Geographic Information System (GIS) based data model that quantifies internal and external encroachment on Army training lands and ranges. It will collect GIS data on seven encroachment factors and will capture encroachment impacts to training such as digging, bivouacs, live fire training, heavy and/or light maneuver training, use of smoke and pyrotechnics, and fly-overs. This methodology provides a quantifiable evaluation of encroachment on training that will be integrated with

the existing Army Range and Training Land Requirements Module (ARRM). The Army completed the prototype of the new ECM at Fort Riley, Kansas, in September 2005. See also Chapter 6.

4.3.2. Navy Encroachment Management Program

The Navy recognizes that testing and training ranges are an important national asset and continues to strive to better evaluate the adequacy of its ranges. Range Complex Management Plans (RCMPs), a cornerstone of the Tactical Training Theater Assessment and Planning Program (TAP), are produced for each Navy Range Complex. The RCMP process produces a detailed breakdown of each range's current ability to meet mission requirements. Each document gives a list of the specific warfare areas that a range is required to support. Based on detailed encroachment and capability/capacity analyses for each complex, the document then assigns a low, medium, or high risk rating by warfare area to the training currently available at the complex. The Navy is on schedule to complete RCMPs for all of its ranges worldwide by 2007. See also Chapter 7.

The Navy builds upon the RCMP analysis by developing an Encroachment Action Plan (EAP). An EAP is the blue print for an installation or range's Encroachment Management program. The EAP identifies encroachment challenges that negatively impact military activities and documents the nature and degree of degradation of testing or training activities. The EAP also assesses the effectiveness of current Navy management, planning, or outreach activities to minimize negative mission impacts and associated additional costs. It examines regulatory and community frameworks that support or exacerbate encroachment challenges, while providing short-, mid-, and long-term strategies to address and correct or prevent the identified encroachment impacts.

4.3.3. Marine Corps Encroachment Management Tools

The Marine Corps has initiated detailed Range Complex Management Plans (RCMPs) for its installations and ranges. The RCMPs provide insight into how encroachment affects training by correlating encroachment issues with training impacts. The Marine Corps guards against encroachment in a number of ways and prepares Encroachment Control Plans (ECPs) as roadmaps for taking action. Tools, such as the Training Range Encroachment Information System (TREIS), and Range Environmental Vulnerability Assessment (REVA) programs; identify, analyze, and report to decision makers on encroachment and its impacts on the installations' abilities to support mission essential tasks. See also Chapter 8.

4.3.4. Natural Infrastructure Capability Resource Management

Natural Infrastructure Capability Resource Management (NICRM) assessments evaluate the environmental resources that are needed to train and perform the mission. Developed by the Air Force, NICRM assesses the adequacy or inadequacy of resources by quantifying resource availability compared to actual requirements in the areas of airspace, air emissions availability, water supply, water discharge availability, surface land and seaspace, energy, and frequency spectrum. Losses due to encroachment are quantified and subtracted from the total resource to determine the remaining amount available. The resource available is then compared to the amount required, and the magnitude of the resulting resource deficiency or opportunity is determined. In addition to quantifying deficiencies, NICRM quantifies the "headroom" available to support increased mission.

DoD is supporting several NICRM pilots in order to demonstrate its ability to capture information on natural infrastructure capability that is timely, standardized, and can be collected across the installations with a reasonable amount of time and effort. See also Chapter 9.

4.3.5. Sustainable Installation Regional Resource Assessment (SIRRA)

One tool developed under the Army's SERM/Fort Future program is the Sustainable Installation Regional Resource Assessment (SIRRA). Developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), with support from the Services and OSD, SIRRA accomplishes the goal of standardized data collection with a reasonable amount of effort by relying on national databases of information that provide regional trends. For example, census data are used to indicate areas of population growth, and EPA databases are used to identify waterways of degraded quality or area of nonattainment in air quality. The SIRRA framework contains 54 indicators in ten issue areas: (1) air quality, (2) airspace, (3) energy, (4) urban development, (5) threatened and endangered species, (6) locational issues, (7) water, (8) economic, (9) quality of life, and (10) infrastructure.

This methodology has been applied to 400 installations and ranges so far, and was successful in quantifying results for each of the encroachment indicators, and in assessing the degree of vulnerability for each of the installations. Of the 400 ranges and installations used in the analysis, the results indicate that 111 (about 28 percent) are vulnerable or have high vulnerability. Another 152 were rated as moderately vulnerable. The remaining 137 (34 percent) were rated as having low or very low vulnerability.

The SIRRA study has provided a list of installations and ranges that may be vulnerable to encroachment issues and require further study. SIRRA is a helpful screening tool that organizes numerous external (to the range or installation) sustainability data and provides relative characterizations of installations and ranges based on that information.[17] Decisions relevant to a specific range or location should be further informed using local data, as well as input and participation from the installation and surrounding communities.

4.4. COMPATIBLE LAND USE PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships to establish conservation buffers have become an increasingly important tool for DoD to ensure that land outside the military installations and ranges is used in ways that are consistent with the military operations within the fence line. As residential, commercial or other types of development near military installations increases, DoD has taken an increased interest in using this tool to protect its military bases and ranges. Partnering efforts aimed at protecting land and securing easements have accelerated since enactment in the NDAA for FY 2003, Sections 2684a and 2694a of Title 10, United States Code.

Partnerships can achieve greater results by leveraging multiple organizations and funding. The Services have had many early successes in establishing partnership agreements, and the number of projects submitted for funding each year is quickly increasing. Examples highlighted later in this section include the Camp Blanding and Camp Ripley Army Compatible Use Buffer (ACUB) projects, the Northwest Florida Greenway project, and Camp Lejeune and Pensacola Naval Air Station Encroachment Partnering projects.

Compatible land use partnerships achieve the following important objectives of DoD's compatible land use strategy: 1) support operational requirements; 2) consider environmental impacts and sustainability, 3) preserve habitat and other valuable sites; 4) involve a high level of participation from community representatives and other stakeholders; and 5) strengthen important long-term working relationships.

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[17] A Characterization of Land Use Trends around the Perimeter of Military Ranges, October, 2005, ERDC/CERL SR-05-DRAFT

The increased interest in and success of these partnership agreements as a tool for compatible land use reflects a growing recognition of the broad impacts of urban sprawl and competition for limited natural resources, the efficiencies of partnerships in serving multiple goals, and the mutual interests that DoD shares with many non-DoD organizations. All of these factors point to an increasing need for cooperation and investment in compatible land use partnerships.

4.4.1. Sikes Act

The acquisition of easements to protect land has been in use for many years by private organizations and other federal agencies engaged in land conservation programs. Prior to 2003, the Sikes Act was the primary authority for the Secretary of Defense to enter into cooperative agreements with states, local governments, non-governmental organizations and individuals to maintain and improve natural resources. This authority was primarily directed to protection of resources within the boundaries of DoD installations. Partnerships took the form of working relationships with private and public organizations and individuals to protect and revitalize species through various on-installation habitat and species enhancement efforts. Increasingly, it became apparent that acquisition of land or easements in the vicinity of military installations and ranges added essential flexibility to wildlife protection efforts, and ultimately, was needed for the sustainability of DoD's ability to train and test.

4.4.2. Legal Authorities under 10 U.S.C. § 2684a

In FY 2003, the National Defense Authorization Act provided the military with an important new tool for investing in or disposing of property in a manner to prevent incompatible land use. Section 2684a of Title 10, U.S.C., provides authority to DoD to enter into agreements with private conservation organizations or state and local governments to cost-share acquisition of land or interests in land to preserve valuable habitat and limit incompatible land use.

Camp Blanding, Florida was the first installation to use new legislative authority in September 2003, with the establishment of a Cooperative Agreement (CA) between the Army National Guard Bureau (ANG) and the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The area around Camp Blanding is a thriving habitat for more than 60 rare species, including the Florida scrub jay, Eastern indigo snake, and the red-cockaded woodpecker, but is threatened by development. Multiple land parcels belonging to six different owners are identified in the CA as potential buffer areas to pursue. In March 2004, the Florida DEP contributed $19.5 million, with $500,000 from ANG to establish 8,500 acres of mainly black bear habitat as a conservation buffer area. The CA was amended in 2004 to supplement the funding amount, and extend the agreement to 30 September 2008. In addition to the advantages offered to the military training mission by the buffer zone, the project contributed to the Florida Forever conservation initiative and the Northwest Florida Greenway project described in the next section.

Multiple Launch Rocket System (MLRS) and artillery units require large areas to train soldiers in realistic live fire exercises.

Soldiers trained at Camp Ripley have been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, European Watch, Iraqi Freedom and other peacekeeping missions.

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Within a few months, a second CA was signed at Camp Ripley, Minnesota, where a 3-mile conservation buffer consisting of 110,000-acres of land was proposed around the post. Using funding from the new DoD Conservation Buffer Program and from other partners, Camp Ripley is working to secure conservation easements on key parcels in its proposed buffer area.

Camp Ripley is one of the largest National Guard training sites in the United States, unique in its large training areas that allow for live-fire and realistic conditions. Camp Ripley is also home to 17 federal and state threatened, endangered or otherwise protected plant and animal species, and hundreds of species, many of which are unique to Central Minnesota.

The 3-mile buffer area was chosen based on an analysis of historical noise complaints and a noise contour study that was conducted as part of Camp Ripley's Environmental Noise Management Plan. The proposed buffer area encompasses much of the outer noise contour created from live-fire training. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and local conservation groups share the installation's objectives to provide additional natural habitat for Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species.

Camps Blanding and Ripley represent early success stories of DoD partnering with non-government organizations to achieve conservation of buffer land in the vicinity of military installations. The momentum for these projects continues to grow, with the identification of high priority installations to prevent incompatible development, the formation of regional conservation forums, and the pursuit of new buffer partnerships across the country. The authority in § 2684a is a significant step forward in encouraging open communications and collaboration between stakeholders: military, environmental groups, and the local communities, leading to successful conservation partnerships. These projects are allowing DoD to make clear-cut gains in achieving conservation and protecting military mission by leveraging funds to accomplish the protection of land and habitat across entire regions.

4.4.3. Regional Success: Northwest Florida Greenway Project

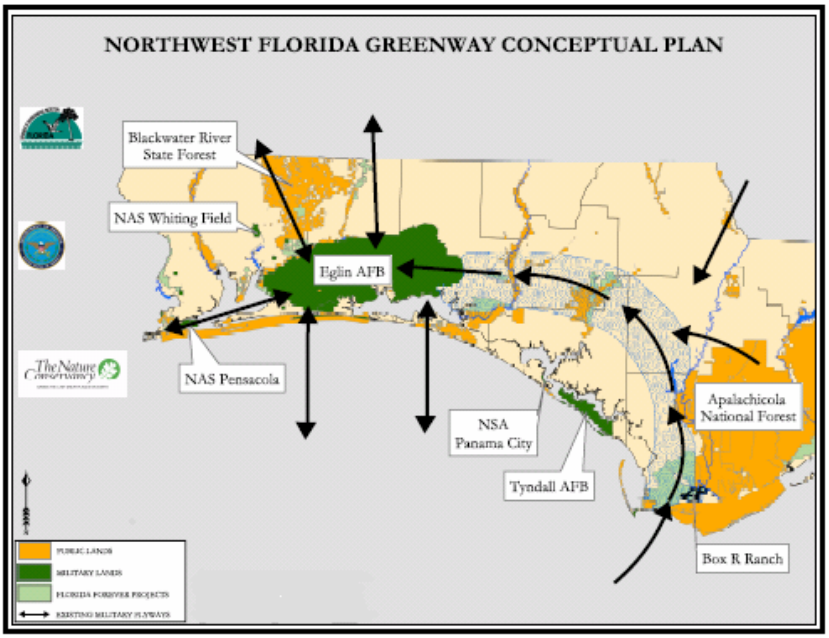
An important regional success story following the passage of the DoD partnering authority is the Northwest Florida Greenway project-- an innovative partnership established in November 2003, between DoD, the state of Florida, and The Nature Conservancy. The goal of the project is to establish a 100-mile buffer corridor extending across the Florida panhandle to preserve habitat amidst rapid population growth, and maintain an important flight path for five U.S. Air Force and Navy installations in the area that support important service and joint testing and training missions.

The project leverages a spectrum of interests and resources, including: Florida acting under its Florida Forever Program to acquire environmentally significant lands through acquisition; DoD entering a partnership under 10 USC § 2684a to preserve military flexibility; and The Nature Conservancy pursuing its mission to preserve plants, animals, and natural communities. These partners are working to:

- Protect one of the Nation's six most biologically diverse regions;
- Protect an area that is host to five Air Force and Navy installations;
- Prevent uncontrolled incompatible development that could hinder realistic military training;
- Prevent habitat fragmentation that could threaten biodiversity, and threatened and endangered species and;
- Strengthen the regional economy by sustaining the mission capabilities of the military in the region and enhancing recreation and tourism.

Figure 4-1 shows the Greenway Plan extending from the Apalachicola National Forest and waters of the Gulf of Mexico to Eglin Air Force Base. The first acquisition under the project was the 7,579-acre Box R Ranch, which serves as the "gateway" to the greenway from the Gulf Coast and provides habitat for many threatened and endangered plant and animal species, including the Florida black bear and bald eagle.

Figure 4-1. The Florida Greenway Plan



4.4.4. DoD Conservation Buffer Program

Congress provides DoD with funding for compatible land use efforts under the Conservation Buffer Program. In FY 2005, Congress appropriated $12.5 million to the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense (Installation & Environment (DUSD(I&E)) to allocate funds to Military Service conservation buffer projects that meet the requirements of 10 USC § 2684. To receive funding, the Services must identify partnering projects that meet the specific authorizing criteria (see box). Under OSD oversight, this FY 2005 funding was allocated to the Services to help implement compatible land use projects at the following locations:

- Fort Carson, Colorado
- Marine Corps Air Station Beaufort, South Carolina
- Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina
- US Army Garrison Hawaii
- Army National Guard Camp Ripley, Minnesota
- La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Facility, California
- Outlying Landing Field, Whitehouse, Florida

Projects like these may result in the acquisition of property, or in acquiring land interest or water rights to ensure land or water use that is compatible with the installation's mission. The partners for these projects may be a State or political subdivision of a State, or a private organization that has the conservation, restoration, or preservation of land and natural resources as its goal.

The DoD Conservation Buffer Program is administered by DUSD(I&E), which provides management, oversight, and coordination over funding allocated to the Services for specific projects. The Services

submit project proposals to the I&E office annually. The proposals are reviewed against the eligibility criteria and funded based on their relative priorities.

DUSD(I&E) is developing a program guide that will describe the objectives, elements, and implementation of the Conservation Buffer Program and the framework and process for funding decisions to the Services for buffer projects utilizing the § 2684a authority. The guide will set forth factors to be taken into consideration in assessing Service project proposals, including the project's benefit to military readiness, its ability to limit incompatible growth, its enhancement to preserving habitat, and its financial viability and partner commitments. These guidelines and the Service project information generated in response, will be used to support future Congressional reporting on the DoD Conservation Buffer Program.

§ 2684a Project Criteria

(a) Agreements Authorized.— The Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department may enter into an agreement with an eligible entity described in subsection (b) to address the use or development of real property in the vicinity of a military installation for purposes of:

(1) Limiting any development or use of the property that would be incompatible with the mission of the installation; or

(2) Preserving habitat on the property in a manner that:

(A) is compatible with environmental requirements; and

(B) may eliminate or relieve current or anticipated environmental restrictions that would or might otherwise restrict, impede, or otherwise interfere, whether directly or indirectly, with current or anticipated military training, testing, or operations on the installation.

DUSD(I&E) integrates its conservation buffer efforts with existing efforts such as the Integrated Natural Resource Management Plans (INRMP), Legacy Resource Management, and JLUS by coordinating activities under the Sustainable Ranges WIPT.

DoD expects to receive $37 million as part of the DOD FY 2006 Defense Appropriations Bill to support this successful and growing program. The individual Service programs and example successes under the § 2684a authority are discussed in the following section.

4.5. SERVICE PROGRAMS

The Services each have their own tailored conservation buffer initiatives that are designed to promote compatible land use and implement the 10 USC § 2684a conservation buffer authority. The Army, Navy, and Marine Corps have created programs centering around the authority, while the Air Force is integrating the use of the authority into existing strategies. The Army program is known as the Army Compatible Use Buffer program (ACUB). The Navy and Marine Corps both title their efforts as Encroachment Partnering (EP) programs.

4.5.1. Army Compatible Use Buffers (ACUB)

Under the Army's ACUB Program, installations implement the 10 USC § 2684a authority by entering into a cooperative agreement with a partner to acquire easements or real estate interests from a willing seller with funds contributed by the Army and other partners. The overall goal of the ACUB program is to purchase land or interest in the land and/or water rights from willing sellers to help the Army protect its training and testing requirements as well as achieve its land stewardship objectives. This program allows the Army to work with partners to protect habitat, training, and testing land without using the lengthy and complicated acquisition process.

Using a Cooperative Agreement, the title to the deeded interest in the land is held by the partner, or the partner may transfer management responsibilities for the conservation easement to an eligible party, as specified in the agreement. As required by 10 USC § 2684a and stipulated in agreements made under this

authority, the military retains the right to request transfer back to the United States. Final approval for projects is given by the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management (ACSIM).

Fort Carson

The Fort Carson Regional Partnership (US Army, Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife Service, willing landowners) negotiated a 3-year lease with the owner of a privately-held ranch which is adjacent to 7 miles of Carson's southern boarder that restricted development on approximately 30,000 acres. This agreement will help to ensure that adjacent land use will be compatible (i.e. agricultural, green space, habitat conservation, etc.) with the military training missions of Fort Carson and will not contribute to additional training pressures resulting from dust and noise complaints which frequently accompany training exercises. It also provides continued protection of Shortgrass Prairie Ecoregion, along with four globally rare plant species. The partnership will purchase the property for an already agreed upon price, when funds become available. In February 2005, funding was secured from the Department of the Army to implement the first phase of acquisition toward the ultimate target of over 60,000 acres of conservation easements on Fort Carson's southern and eastern boundaries. To date, this is the single, most expansive, conservation easement acquired by the Department of the Army to mitigate encroachment on a major military installation.

4.5.1.1. Description of ACUB Process

The primary Army authority for the ACUB program is the Army's Policy Guidance Memorandum of May 19, 2003 from the HQDA Deputy Chief of Staff G3 Director of Training, and ACSIM, entitled, "Army Range and Training Land Acquisitions and Army Compatible Use Buffers." Overall management responsibility for the ACUB programs resides within the OACSIM. Proposals for Active Army Installations are first validated by the Army Range Sustainment Integration Council (ARSIC). Proposals for National Guard installations are validated by the National Guard Bureau.

The 2003 guidance memo encourages the establishment of good working relationships with stakeholders, and the cultivation of relationships with potential ACUB partners. In addition, the guidance memo encourages the establishment of working teams at the installations participating in ACUB, and establishes an ARSIC working group at the headquarters (HQ) level to review proposals. The installation working teams include representation from natural resources, range operations, master planning, and legal counsel.

4.5.1.2. Criteria and Prioritization

The Army developed a matrix methodology to evaluate an installation's ability to benefit from ACUB, and then to prioritize the ACUB effort. The matrix evaluates the installations' project proposals against five weighted factors:

1) SROC Sustainability Considerations,

2) Availability of Land,

3) Time Sensitivity,

4) Level of Regulatory Support, and

5) Level of Public Support.

This process identifies high priority training sites with the greatest potential to reduce or prevent encroachment through implementation of an ACUB. The ACSIM and G3 review and validate proposed ACUBs against this matrix and then develop a prioritized list for action and funding.

4.5.2. Marine Corps Encroachment Partnering (EP)

The Marine Corps exercises 10 USC § 2684a authority by acquiring real property in the vicinity of military installations, including ranges and training areas for purposes of (1) limiting development or use of property that would be incompatible with the mission of the installations and (2) preserving habitat on properties that would relieve current or anticipated ecosystem habitats for the installations.

The Marine Corps enters into agreements with State and local agencies and private environmental organizations by participating in Conservation Forums led by States or NGOs. The primary purpose of these Forums is to identify mutually agreeable criteria for land acquisition, identify land available for acquisition, develop a real estate process that meets all participants' legal requirements for property acquisition, and bring together interested members of the Forum to conduct real estate transactions. This approach has proven successful, resulting in the establishment of partnering teams at a number of Marine Corps installations.

Onslow Bight Conservation Forum – Camp Lejeune

In 2002, MCB Camp Lejeune joined the Onslow Bight Conservation Forum. Forum participants include The Nature Conservancy (TNC), North Caroina Coastal Land Trust, Endangered Species Coalition, several North Carolina state agencies, the USFWS, and the U.S. Forest Service.

In 2003, The Nature Conservancy purchased 2,500 acres adjacent to tank and rifle ranges at Camp Lejeune slated for a golf course and a 3,000 unit housing development. The North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) took fee title of the land for inclusion into the state hunting lands system and the Marine Corps acquired a restrictive easement governing development, thus ensuring any land use of the parcel must be in accordance with Marine Corps training requirements. In 2005, using its own funding as well as that of the NCWRC and from the new DoD Conservation Buffer Program, the Marine Corps received restrictive easements on three parcels totaling another 1,065 acres of buffer land. The Marine Corps and the NCWRC are currently collaborating on several additional projects.

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4.5.2.1. Marine Corps Encroachment Partnering Process

Encroachment Partnering is the Marine Corps' term for a shared strategy of working with state or local agencies and private conservation organizations to acquire real estate interests in the vicinity of Marine Corps installations to prevent incompatible land use or loss of habitat that could affect current or future military operations.

Established Marine Corps Conservation Forums

North Carolina Onslow Bight (MCB Camp Lejeune and MCAS Cherry Point)
California South Coast (MCB Camp Pendleton and MCAS Miramar)
California Walker River (MC Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport)
South Carolina Low Country (MCAS Beaufort)
Georgia Altamaha River (Townsend Range-MCAS Beaufort)
O'ahu Conservation Partnership (OCP MCB Hawaii)

The process begins with the establishment of a regional Conservation Forum, consisting of local and regional community planners, conservation groups, and other non-government stakeholders. The Conservation Forum develops a conservation plan with regional goals, and maps areas of key areas of mutual interest and opportunity. The group works collaboratively to identify willing sellers and initiate projects. EP projects are based on the premise that the Marine Corps and its partners have a common interest in protecting land from incompatible development and that both are willing to contribute to the cost of acquiring these interests.

Beaufort Low Country Conservation Forum

In 2003, MCAS Beaufort joined the Low Country Conservation Forum. Members of this forum include Beaufort County, the Beaufort Open Space Land Trust, and Trust for Public Land. In 2004, Beaufort County and the Marine Corps partnered to acquire a restrictive easement on 69 acres of land near MCAS Beaufort. In 2005, using its own funding, that of Beaufort County, and from the new DoD Conservation Buffer Program, Beaufort County and the Marine Corps split the cost of three more acquisitions near MCAS Beaufort totaling 162 acres. Additional parcels are being considered for restrictive easement acquisition.

4.5.3. Navy Encroachment Partnering Program

The Navy Encroachment Partnering (EP) program is part of a broader Encroachment Management Program implemented by the Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) to address encroachment pressures in fifteen areas such as private development in the vicinity of the installation, range, or OPAREA, restrictions imposed by environmental regulations, and growing competition for waterfront areas, airspace, and frequency spectrum. Partnering opportunities may be explored under 10 USC § 2684a to secure land and water rights that could affect the training requirements or even access to Navy's installations. To-date, the Navy practice has been to acquire a recordable interest in the property in the form of a restrictive use or conservation easement that limits development of property to specific compatible uses and/or densities.

La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Range

The La Posta Mountain Warfare Training Range is a critical component of the Naval Special Warfare, Southern California complex of ranges, which includes San Clemente Island (maritime), Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range (desert), NAB Coronado (amphibious), Camp Pendleton (urban), and La Posta (mountain). Under its EP Program, the Navy acquired easements on 3 parcels totaling 370 acres using DoD Conservation Buffer Program funds ($695K). The Navy partnered with the State of California and The Nature Conservancy (TNC), which acquired the deeds of the properties as an agent for the State and provided the Navy with an easement preventing incompatible development.

The Navy EP Program was initiated by a memorandum issued from the ASN (I&E) in January 2003, which encompasses the Navy and Marine Corps programs followed by a memorandum from the Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (DCNO (Fleet Readiness and Logistics-N4)) in November 2003.

Office of the Chief of Naval Operations (OPNAV) Instruction (11010.40) describes the Navy's overall Encroachment Management Program of which Encroachment Partnering is an important element. The instruction describes installation-level Encroachment Action Plans (EAP) that will serve as key planning documents for EP initiatives, including short, medium, and long-term strategies and an action plan for each installation. Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon developed the first EAP to be used as a model for others that will follow. The Fallon EAP resulted in a comprehensive long-term strategy including proposals to use the conservation buffer authority to acquire interests in over 90 parcels of land surrounding NAS Fallon. The EAPs will capture potential encroachment challenges and propose a list of potential projects and funding needs.

Outlying Landing Field (OLF) Whitehouse, Florida

OLF Whitehouse is a critically important training resource for the local Navy community. It provides a close proximity to the East Coast commands and offers day and nighttime fleet carrier landing practice conditions, a unique natural environmental, relative isolation, few weather delays, and offers a low-light ground training capability. Under its EP Program, the Navy partnered with the State of Florida in September 2005 to acquire 1,650-acres of buffer land on the eastern and northeastern border of the OLF for $13,500,000. The Navy contributed $1,695,000 of Navy funds and $305,000 of DoD funds to the project and acquired permanent deed restrictions on the property limiting its use to light recreational activities. The State of Florida contributed $11,000,000 and placed the property in their conservation program. Most of the property lays within accident potential zones and high noise contours.

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The DCNO (Fleet Readiness and Logistics) (N4) will validate submitted projects to ensure that they relieve encroachment, or environmental constraints, and are consistent with mission requirements as well as Navy environmental and natural resource policy. The ASN (I&E) retains approval authority for all programmatic and specific encroachment partnering agreements.

Project prioritization should link to the Tactical Training Theater Assessment and Planning (TAP) Program. In general, projects that are eligible for encroachment partnering need to show the following:

1) Need in terms of military operations.

2) Existence of partners.

3) Contribution amount from partners; required DoD contribution.

Since FY 2004, the Navy has invested $3.2 million in Encroachment Partnering, protecting 2,068 acres of land from incompatible land use. In its POM for FY 2006, the Navy requested $9.2 million in funding for EP projects.

4.5.4. Air Force

The Air Force philosophy on compatible use is based on cooperative planning with local communities, combined with intergovernmental coordination and community partnering. Compatible use considerations have historically been integrated into the Air Force comprehensive planning strategy. As a result, much of the Air Force's direct land needs for mission are identified, but new developments and trends demonstrate a need to evolve the approach to enhance the focus on managing airspace beyond just acquiring interest in land. The Air Force is currently in the process of enhancing its strategy and identifying additional opportunities for partnering that will limit encroachment issues associated with installations, ranges, and the use of needed airspace.

Kern County Wind Energy

The Tehachapi area of California, near Edwards Air Force Base, is one of the most productive wind resource areas in the country. Increasing pressure to expand wind generation capacity threatened aircraft operations by encouraging the installation of taller wind turbines near restricted airspace routes. Wind turbine farms of increasing heights would present serious encroachments upon training and testing mission within the R-2508 Restricted Airspace Complex, which is used by multiple military users and represents the largest single area of overland Special Use Airspace (SUA) within the United States.

The Air Force convened a joint group of operators, airspace experts, and sustainability professionals, and worked closely with the Kern Wind Energy Assocation and local planners. The result was unanimous passage of height restrictions within the county's zoning ordinances, which allow for increased energy capacity while protecting important military flying routes. The new zoning ordinance was unanimously adopted by the Kern Country Board of Supervisors in January, 2005, and is guided by color-coded, GIS-based maps that indicate height restrictions on cell towers, wind turbines, or meterological towers.

The Air Force laid out guiding principles for managing its natural Infrastructure (air, land, and water resources) to support operational requirements in the Air Force's Natural Infrastructure Management and Encroachment Prevention Policy, November 23, 2004. In this policy, the Air Force articulates the need to more broadly manage its natural infrastructure to not only ensure environmental protection but also to protect and enhance the Air Force mission. Sustainability is a key focus of the Air Force's guiding principles.

As part of its sustainability efforts, the Air Force has a suite of tools and strategies that are being integrated into the sustainability management system. New strategies, such as those provided for under 10 USC § 2684a, will be integrated into the suite of tools to further enhance current efforts. Any compatible use or other encroachment prevention initiatives should be an outgrowth of a routine sustainability/comprehensive planning strategy. The Air Force frames compatible use efforts as part of overall planning to counter encroachment, as a program or tool in the sustainability toolbox. The current suite of tools and programs in the Air Force toolbox include the Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) program, Joint Land Use Study Program (both described later in this chapter) and the Interagency and Intergovernmental Coordination for Environmental Planning (IICEP).

IICEP was originally created to respond to the coordination requirements outlined in the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 and E.O. 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*. However, the Air Force saw a greater potential to use this strategy as a way to gain public support and understanding of the Air Force Mission, and develop and maintain reciprocal planning procedures between the Air Force and other federal, state, regional and local governments and agencies. New strategies or tools to achieve compatible use such as the authority granted under USC § 2684a are being incorporated into a comprehensive strategy.

The Air Force's ongoing strategy for compatible use is to continue to work with local communities and other stakeholders to achieve compatible development through the use of zoning or through other land use strategies the community may desire such as: transferring development rights, tax incentives, bond issues, or acquisition of easements by the community. A second no-cost strategy the Air Force has been able to use is land swaps involving other federal land management agencies. If these strategies either fail or do not provide sufficient protection and mission is manifestly threatened, easements can be pursued, either through traditional authorities or through partnering, or finally, using authorities to acquire a fee simple interest in the land in question.

4.6. OTHER PROGRAMS ADDRESSING COMPATIBLE LAND USE

The Department has been working to encourage compatible land use efforts for decades. Many of our military installations were built in the late 1940s and early 1950s in locations at least 10-15 miles from urban population centers. These installations became centers of employment and attracted urban growth to support both the employee's needs and the logistical/supply/construction needs of the military. As the public moved closer to these installations, problems with complaints over the effects of military operations often caused operational changes that negatively impacted the mission. As these problems grew, the Services began efforts to address growing incompatible development.

These efforts ranged from the Air Force's "greenbelt" program (i.e., creating a buffer zone that was a generalized rectangle around the installation) to other more durable compatible land use programs like the DoD Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ) program, DoD Noise Program, and Joint Land Use Studies (JLUS), all in use today. Most recently, Congress has provided a new authority to partner with non-government organizations (NGOs) to acquire conservation easements on lands in the vicinity of military installations or ranges.

The primary philosophy behind the compatible land use programs is not "no-growth," but promoting growth that is compatible with the military mission on public and private lands neighboring our military installations. The purpose of the program is to:

- Minimize the effects of military operations on land areas near installations;
- Prevent incompatible development in high noise exposure and accident potential areas;
- Prevent threats to operational capability through compatible land use planning and control; and
- Prevent threats to pilot safety from flight hazards, bird strikes, visual interference from light, smoke, or steam, and electromagnetic interference.

While early DoD land use compatibility efforts were focused primarily on air installations, these concepts are also now being applied to military ranges.

4.6.1. Air Installations Compatible Use Zones (AICUZ)

The objectives of the AICUZ program are two-fold: 1) Assist local, regional, state and federal officials in protecting the public health, safety, and welfare by promoting compatible development within the AICUZ area of influence and, 2) Protect the installation's operational capability from the effects of land use which are incompatible with aircraft operations.

The key to the success of the program has been the participation of military installations in the local land use planning process; and outreach to local civic groups, realtors, and other key stakeholders in local government decision-making. Education of the neighboring communities, as well as state and regional planning bodies on the military mission has been an essential element of the AICUZ program. The AICUZ study is the primary means by which this is accomplished. The study contains an analysis of

accident potential, and noise produced by military operations. The aircraft noise is analyzed using computer modeling that produces noise compatibility zones. The study also identifies areas of current and future incompatible land use based on local land use plans, and provides local communities with compatible land use recommendations for consideration in development of their comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. The compatible land use recommendations for aircraft noise have been endorsed and adopted by FAA, EPA, HUD, and VA, and are used nation-wide for military and commercial airfields.

Implementation of compatible land use planning based on the AICUZ study results is the most critical element of the program. The key element of implementation is establishing a positive long-term relationship and open dialogue with the nearby governments at all levels. On the military's part, this requires constant monitoring of land development patterns, participation in local land use planning and zoning board meetings. Education of local civic organizations, realtor organizations, and developers is critical. At the state level, efforts to enact enabling legislation to allow counties and cities to enact zoning ordnances have been a key element to successful AICUZ implementation.

The AICUZ program is an established program that provides the fundamental information needed to pursue compatible land use strategies. DoD Instruction 4165.57 establishes the AICUZ program and is currently being updated to reflect current responsibilities and procedures.

4.6.2. Range Air Installations Compatible Use Zone (RAICUZ)

The Navy and Marine Corps' RAICUZ program is an extension of the AICUZ program for air-to-ground ranges and is comprised of detailed analyses of current and proposed range utilization, restricted airspace, range safety zones including weapons impact areas, aircraft noise, land use compatibility, risk areas, and mitigation alternatives for air-to-ground ordnance activities at Navy and Marine Corps ranges. The studies result in land use recommendations that are compatible with range safety zones and noise levels associated with range operations. RAICUZ land use recommendations are used to support collaborative planning efforts with state, local, regional, and tribal governments to foster compatible development outside installation boundaries and minimize both military and community encroachment impacts.

RAICUZ studies at the following ranges have either been completed or are in progress: Fallon Range Training Complex, Nevada; El Centro, California; Dare County, North Carolina; Meridian, Mississippi; McMullen, Texas; Jacksonville Complex, Florida; Searay Range, Mississippi; and Bob Stump Range, Arizona. At Fallon Range Training Complex, RAICUZ studies resulted in withdrawal of additional public lands by the Bureau of Land Management that is now managed to protect public safety and sustain the military mission at Fallon.

4.6.3. DoD Noise Program

DoD recently issued a new Instruction, DoDI 4715.13, establishing the DoD Noise Program. This program establishes policies and provides for coordinated efforts among the Services and OSD offices to address sound generated from military operations. The overriding premise of the program is to reduce adverse effects from the noise associated with military testing and training operations consistent with maintaining military readiness. The program aims not only to take into account noise from the operation of weapon systems, but also in their development and production. In addressing noise issues the Department will seek to use sound scientific research and methods. It will also seek to train and educate DoD as well as non-DoD personnel on noise issues through outreach efforts and coordinate and partner with other Federal Agencies on various initiatives.

A DoD Noise Working Group (DNWG) has been established under the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment (DUSD(I&E)). It is composed of representatives from all the

Military Departments. The DNWG serves to advise the DUSD(I&E) on noise related issues and to serve as the Departments coordinating body for technical and policy issues concerning noise associated with military testing and training activities and the impacts of such noise. The DNWG will also interface with other Federal and State Agencies, nongovernmental organizations, professional organizations, educational institutions, and industries on noise issues of mutual interest. This new Instruction builds upon existing Service noise management initiatives as well as the past efforts of joint-service working groups on the subject.

For example, the Army's Installation Operational Noise Management Program (IONMP) provides a strategy for noise management at installations and facilities. Elements of the IONMP include quantifying the installation noise environment, education, complaint management, noise and vibration mitigation, accident potential zones, and noise abatement procedures.

The IONMP provides a methodology for analyzing exposure to noise and safety hazards associated with military operations, and provides land use guidelines for achieving compatibility between the Army and the surrounding communities. The Army has an obligation to citizens to recommend uses of land around its installations that will: (a) protect citizens from noise and other hazards; and (b) protect the public's investment in the installation.

Under IONMP, the noise impact on the community is translated into noise zones. The program defines four noise zones. Zone I is compatible with most noise-sensitive land uses. Zone II is normally incompatible with noise-sensitive land uses. The Land Use Planning Zone provides the installation with a better means to predict possible complaints, and meet the public demand for a better description of what will exist during a period of increased operations. Zone III is incompatible with noise-sensitive land uses.

4.6.4. Joint Land Use Study Program (JLUS)

The JLUS Program, administered by DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), is a cooperative land use planning effort between an affected local government and a military installation. This program was established in 1985 as an effort to work with local jurisdictions to ensure compatible development around installations and ranges particularly with respect to noise, safety, and operationally sensitive areas.

The JLUS Program addresses existing and potential conflicts between community growth and installation operations to achieve compatibility between the military and local communities through planning and land use control processes. The program works to raise awareness at the state and local levels for the sustainability requirements of local military installations, and provide technical or community planning assistance to support compatible land use efforts through grants authorized under Title 10 USC § 2391.

The JLUS Program Guidance Manual (August 2002) presents guidance in establishing and implementing a JLUS Study. It addressees project selection, OEA roles such as meeting with the base and community to evaluate encroachment issues, levels of commitment, availability of data (i.e., AICUZ, IONMP, noise), and resources to support the study. Organization behind the project involves establishing a local or regional study sponsor, policy committee to oversee the study, and a working group to study the technical issues. Guidance on implementing the study results, such as the establishment of a permanent advisory board, is also provided in the manual.

JLUS studies last approximately 12 months. Approximately 25 percent of the financial resources needed to support a JLUS study are contributed by non-government sources. The recommendations from a JLUS Study provide a framework for land use policies or laws, state legislation, and public outreach/education programs to promote mutually compatible land use around military ranges and installations.

In recent years, JLUS studies have been increasing in number and scope. The Arizona Military Regional Compatibility Project is a state-sponsored leadership project to address land use compatibility efforts around the State's four military installations: Luke Air Force Base, Davis-Monthan AFB, Yuma Proving Ground, Yuma Marine Air Corps Station, Fort Huachuca, and the Barry M. Goldwater Range Complex. The State of Arizona recognized the enormous economic contribution from its military bases, as shown in a state-sponsored economic impact study conducted in 2002. Each of the areas surrounding the four largest bases was identified as centers of high population growth that needed to be addressed under the State's Compatible Land Use legislation. The project was initiated in 2002 through state legislation that appropriated funding to develop comprehensive land use plans in the noise and accident potential zones around military airfields. In January 2003, OEA joined this collaborative effort with state agencies, local governments, business and land development groups, community representatives, installation staff, educational institutions, and private landowners to conduct and incorporate recommendations from JLUS studies. JLUS studies have been completed at Luke's auxiliary airfield, Davis-Monthan AFB, and the Barry M. Goldwater Range Complex, with compatible land use recommendations developed by jurisdiction.

A JLUS study conducted by the Eastern Carolina Council of Governments aims to modify existing comprehensive plans and land use plans to ensure regional compatibility in the areas around Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point and Bogue Field in the state of North Carolina. It recommends enacting regulations to guide growth in areas vulnerable to uncontrolled growth. In addition, the AICUZ study conducted by the county and MCAS Cherry Point recommends limiting density of housing in certain flight zones near the base. The Cherry Point JLUS won two awards from the North Carolina American Planning Association: the first award for the study and the second for the implementation strategy.

Santa Rosa County, Florida, with joint participation from Naval Air Station (NAS) Whiting Field and DoD, prepared a JLUS that establishes land use recommendations regarding development and population concentrations. In September 2003, the Santa Rosa County Board of Commissioners approved the *Santa Rosa County JLUS* report and its recommendations. Since its approval, Santa Rosa County, with cooperation from NAS Whiting Field, began implementing the growth management recommendations contained in the report, including the county purchase of land adjacent to the airfield and receipt of $477,000 in the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farmland Preservation Grants for purchase of agricultural easements. The Santa Rosa County JLUS won the 2004 Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (FAPA) Award of Excellence.

DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment has sponsored and completed 43 JLUS studies from 1985 through 2005, and an additional 38 studies are currently underway. JLUS recommendations may include military operational changes, changes to the community's comprehensive land use plan, rezonings, modifications to building code regulations, and establishment of community oversight committees, which together provides the process needed to successfully integrate the installations' operational needs with local jurisdictions' comprehensive plans for development. OEA recently worked with the National Governors Association to develop the "Practical Guide to Compatible Civilian Development Near Military Installations." The purpose of the guide is to acquaint civilian and military authorities with the variety of land use control tools available at the federal, state and local government levels that promote compatible land use near military installations. The guide is available at the OEA website (www.oea.gov) under Encroachment Programs.

4.7. OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION

Involvement of communities, conservation experts, and other stakeholders is paramount to DoD's continued success in acquiring the buffers needed to protect access to military test and training ranges. It

is also essential that the Department concurrently engage with communities near installations to promote compatible land use and zoning. Continued sharing of information will present new opportunities both locally and regionally that will benefit the military, communities, land-owners and conservation organizations. This section describes a number of initiatives that are underway or just beginning within DOD's DUSD (I&E) office.

4.7.1. White House Conservation Conference

On August 26 2004, President Bush signed Executive Order 13352, entitled "Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation" to promote cooperative conservation within the Federal Agencies. The executive order instructs the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce, and Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency to implement laws that encourage cooperative conservation, and to involve local participation in Federal decision-making related to conservation efforts.

The Executive Order also established the White House Cooperative Conservation Conference, the first of which was held August 29-31 2005, in St. Louis, Missouri. The event was attended by over 1,000 leaders in conservation from across the nation, and proved a huge success in information exchange and collaboration. Attendees represented conservation groups; private-sector companies; local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; recreation enthusiasts; ranchers, farmers, hunters, and anglers.

Participants in the conference provided information and ideas on innovative ways to work with others to promote mutually compatible conservation. For DoD, the information and ideas exchanged there identified new opportunities to help secure critical test and training ranges.

4.7.2. Partnering with States and the USFWS on Sikes Act Implementation

Since the original Sikes Act of 1960, the Act has been updated on two occasions with the Sikes Amendments of 1986 and Sikes Improvement Act of 1997. The 1997 amendments to the original Sikes Act require DoD to prepare and implement an INRMP for each installation in the United States with "significant natural resources."

An INRMP provides management guidance and sets priorities for natural resource protection, improvement, and restoration. Installations use INRMPs to manage and maintain natural resources, fish and wildlife conservation, forestry, land management, and outdoor recreation. An INRMP should integrate military operations and conservation activities, and serve as the management plan for planners and facility managers in identifying and prioritizing conservation initiatives at the installation. Installations develop the INRMP in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the State, which makes them good sources for projects to be submitted for funding under 10 USC § 2684a. DoD is also initiating efforts to integrate INRMPs with the State Wildlife Conservation Strategies. By the end of FY 2004, DoD completed the revision of 98 percent of its INRMPs. Implementation and updates to these plans is now the focus.

In October 2002, ODUSD (I&E) updated its 1998 policy memo to emphasize coordination with stakeholders, improve efficiency of the review process, and increase ties between natural resources and military readiness, which supports DoD's focus on broader, multi-stakeholder initiatives.

DoD is also developing a training course to enhance the interface with the USFWS and States as INRMPs are revised and updated. The course is being designed as a three-day class based on experiences of those involved in developing hundreds of INRMPs. The course will review the requirements for implementing the Sikes Act, particularly as it was amended to address natural resources beyond the earlier focus on fish and game. The training will also address each of the elements of an INRMP, including annual reviews

and updates, and the public comment process. DoD is planning to hold this course regionally or locally, targeting approximately 500-600 people in the first 1–2 years. All parties involved in INRMP development are targeted to attend the training: Installations, DOI/FWS, and State fish and wildlife agencies. The underlying goal of this effort is to enhance the working relationships among the various parties to ensure that each party's goals, including the enhancement and protection of the DoD mission, are appropriately considered and addressed.

4.7.3. Additional Outreach Initiatives

The Department of Defense recognizes that the key to maintaining access to our test and training ranges into the future depends on better overall land use planning in the vicinity of our installations, as well as in areas where we need access to air and sea space. The Department has embarked on an extensive internal and external outreach program.

DoD is initiating additional outreach efforts aimed at information exchange, partnering, and leveraging complementary efforts of outside organizations. For example, DoD is meeting with local government organizations, organizations that represent local developers, academic and research centers that study conservation issues, and state organizations such as the National Council of State Legislators (NCSL). DoD is also developing, in cooperation with NCSL, the American Farmland Trust, Land Trust Alliance, and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), a series of guidebooks on how military installations and local governments and conservators can work together to promote compatible land use. Several pilot programs are planned for 2006 that will use these primers and help set the stage for how installations partner with communities in the future.

Partnerships have been established with national environmental and conservation non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Department has participated in many national conferences, such as the National Conference of State Legislators and the International City/County Managers Association, to engage stakeholders in the issues of maintaining military readiness. These efforts have led to 21 states passing legislation that will lead to better zoning and future planning near military installations. To enhance information sharing about laws to protect military installations, DoD developed a web-based interactive map that contains information on state legislative and administrative actions to support the military mission within their borders. The NCSL and ICMA have promoted the web site at in-house events and added links to the DENIX web-site: https://www.denix.osd.mil/denix/Public/Library/Sustain/Ranges/StateLeg/usamap.html.

A number of Conservation Forums have been formed with state, local and NGO partners at many of our installations to better plan for buffer zone programs, and have been very successful in such places as Hawaii, California and Colorado. The Services continue to work with their installations on creating these forums where they will be useful.

As population statistics show exponential growth near many installations, particularly in the South and West, it is apparent that regional solutions must be found for land use planning. Therefore, the Department has worked with four southeast states, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, to develop a Southeast Regional Partnership for Planning and Sustainability pilot project. This will be a first time that the department has partnered with multiple states to look at regional needs into the future and attempt to plan for maintaining military readiness in a four state area. Thus far two meetings have been held and projects on a regional basis are being developed.

Another project has involved the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). The Department spearheaded the formation of an ECOS/Federal Facilities Sustainability Work Group within ECOS that looks at solutions to State/Federal issues on sustainability. The ECOS/DoD Task Group has had regular

meetings and formed a sustainability committee that has been very active in promoting state-wide military/community planning.

This continued sharing of information with our stakeholders at all levels will present new opportunities both locally and regionally that can benefit all partners involved and lead to the long term sustainment of military readiness.